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# Dollhouse

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## Dollhouse

By Maggie Burke

It was dark and she was late  
He had been drinking like always  
He was mad like always  
She was only with friends but so was he  
He had to prove himself as a man  
The slap was as sharp as the icicles that hung from the roof  
And as cold as the water he poured over her after  
Locked out in the snow  
No one stopped him  
No one helped her  
This wasn't new  
Soon she left  
But where she went –  
He followed  
Like a selfish child  
Refusing to give up his toy  
Just so no one else could have it  
He didn't want to play  
He wanted to punish  
Eventually she made it out  
Away and safe  
But I know she'll always be scared  
If not for herself then for me  
She wants me to be strong and I am  
Even if I had to learn how all on my own